

It has been a quick Christmas season to say the least. Hopefully, it has been a joyful one: we have certainly tried as a pastorate to pack in as many of our feast days and celebrations as we reasonably could—and we will hopefully continue to build upon them as well. We conclude our Christmas season with the Baptism of the Lord, and we can all reflect on the gift of our own baptism or those of our children and godchildren. What Jesus allows John the Baptist to do this weekend is rather unprecedented to say the least. For God to allow one of his creatures to baptize Him is a such profound act of humility that literally echoes to this very day. That is why every baptismal font is the River Jordan itself, the beginning of the sacramental life for all Christians.

And that sacramental life then flows out from all Christians into the modern world and has an impact in profound and oftentimes surprising ways. The impact of one baptism is quite large, and that is why we honor the Baptism of the Lord this weekend. In fact, traditionally the whole month of January is dedicated to the name of Jesus. It is truly in His name that our lives and names take on real meaning in this world, and it also connects us to our deceased loved ones in the world to come. The naming that goes along with Baptism is very important, where we typically add or are given a name to our own that becomes part of how God knows and loves us—which we then add to at Confirmation. As we hear from the Prophet Isaiah this weekend, “I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations.” So, in our baptisms and in our names, we can become Christ’s light for the world as we share our gifts, abilities, and lives in this new year.

In Christ,

Fr. Hurley

#### HOLY FAMILY MONTHLY LUNCHEON

We will have our kickoff 2022 Carry-In Luncheon after 11am Mass on January 16. All are welcome to enjoy great fellowship, good food and BINGO.

Reemmer Hall will be open before Mass to drop off your dish. See you all then.

**Thank you, thank you, thank you,** St. John's! Our parish has a reputation for generosity in our community. Our small parish comes through for the community every year. This year though St. John's parishioners went over the top providing needed items for our community schools through the Advent tree program. People took many tags from the tree and filled them generously. It is so wonderful to be a part of such a caring community. Thank you on behalf of the Blackford county children.

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

*Jan. 10:* 1 Sm 1: 1-8; Mk 1: 14-20

*Jan. 11:* 1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1: 21-28

*Jan. 12:* 1 Sm 3: 1-10, 19-20; Mk 1: 29-39

*Jan. 13:* [St. Hilary, bishop & doctor of the Church] 1 Sm 4: 1-11; Mk 1: 40-45

*Jan. 14:* 1 Sm 8: 4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2: 1-12

*Jan. 15:* 1 Sm 9: 1-4, 17-19; 10: 1; Mk 2: 13-17

*Jan. 16:* Is 62: 1-5; 1 Cor 12: 4-11; Jn 2: 1-11

#### RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT

Elderly religious need your help. Thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes—often for little to no pay. Now, many religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to this Sunday’s Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more.

Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Please be generous, envelopes can be found in your packets.

#### PARISH STEWARDSHIP

##### St. Mary’s

Sunday Collection: \$1,106.00

Needed Weekly: \$887.87

##### St. John’s

Sunday Collection: \$2,806.00

Religious Retirement: \$50.00

Needed Weekly: \$3,225.23

##### Holy Family

Sunday Collection: \$4,067.00

Sharing Cupboard: \$75.00

Religious Retirement: \$75.00

Needed Weekly: \$2,238.00

*Jesus, whom God called “my beloved Son,” is also the “servant” of whom Isaiah speaks in the first reading. We who are baptized in Christ must follow His example and use our time and resources in the service of God and neighbor.*

#### GOSPEL REFLECTIONS:

IS 42:1-4, 6-7 or IS 40:1-5, 9-11; PS 29:1-4, 9-10 or PS 104:1B-4, 24-25, 27-30; ACTS 10: 34-38 or TI 2:11-14; 3: 4-7; LK 3:15-16; 21-22

As we celebrate this feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we can study His actions at the Jordan River as a powerful example of servant leadership. We see in Jesus a type of leadership that is characterized by humility and leading by example. Certainly, the sinless Savior did not need a baptism of repentance! But Jesus humbly made Himself one with his people to draw us to Him and create a relationship with us so that we would be open to His teachings and influence. As a servant leader, we also see that Jesus leads by example. He doesn’t just tell the people they need to be baptized. He shows them how and does it Himself to teach them. To lead like Jesus, we, too, must “walk the walk” and not just “talk the talk.” If we want those who we lead to be generous and hard-working, then we must show them how to do this by demonstrating generosity and hard work ourselves. Immediately after His baptism, we learn of the powerful affirmation of the Father who opens the heavens, sends the Holy Spirit upon Jesus in bodily form, and says audibly, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased.” Let us be filled with gratitude for our amazing God and be reminded that when we are grateful followers of Jesus and servant-leaders in imitation of Him, the Father will be well-pleased with us, too.

#### CELEBRATE THE LORD’S DAY MASSES:

##### LITURGY SCHEDULE

January 9, 2022

Baptism of the Lord

**Monday, January 10 at St. John’s**

10:00a.m...Raymond “Bud” Helm

**Tuesday, January 11**

5:30p.m...No Mass

**Wednesday, January 12 at St. John’s**

12:00noon...Ilah Place

**Thursday, January 13 at St. Mary’s**

5:30p.m...Fr. Rick Tucker

**Friday, January 14 at Holy Family**

9:00a.m...Brenda Hughes

**Saturday, January 15**

5:00p.m...Bill & Marilyn Blankenbaker at St. Mary’s

6:30p.m...Sr. Marguerite Coyne at St. John’s

**Sunday, January 16**

9:00a.m...Ed Holtzleiter at St. John’s

11:00a.m...Parishioners of St. Mary’s, St. John’s,

and Holy Family at Holy Family

#### PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR JANUARY:

##### **For true human fraternity**

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

#### NEW-TO-YOU KUDOS

As a new year begins, I would like to thank all the volunteers, donors, and the St John's staff for contributing to the success of the New-To-You Thrift Shop in 2021. With the generosity of your time and unwanted treasures, last year we were able to help many needy local families who shop at our store.

The parishioners of our pastorate can be very proud of the good that comes from this vital outreach ministry both in providing a place for those to give and for those to receive out of kindness.

Sincerely,  
Karen Uggen, Manager NTY

#### WE ARE HIRING...VOLUNTEERS!

St. John's New-To-You Shop is in need of volunteers through the winter months. Anyone from our pastorate is welcome to help out for a 3-hour shift on Thursdays, Fridays, or Saturdays. Call the office at 348-3889 if interested.

#### WEEKLY CALENDAR:

*Tuesday, Jan. 11:* Pastoral Council 6pm at St. John's

*Friday, Jan. 14:* Reconciliation 8:30am at Holy Family

*Sunday, Jan. 16:* Rosary 4pm at Holy Family  
Carry-in Luncheon 12noon at Holy Family

#### FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE

Please remember in your prayers Sue Meyers, former parishioner of St. John's, who passed to eternal life this past week. May her family be comforted by your prayers.

**PRAYER CHAIN:** To have someone prayed for or be one of those doing the praying, please contact Janice Jackson at 348-1521 or the office at 348-3889 or Marcia at 674-7608.

**Please pray for all those parishioners and their families dealing with illness or difficulty.**

Holy Family now has a lending library in the front vestibule of church. Please take advantage of the religious reading materials.

#### Quotes from *The Gospel of Life*:

*"A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world...Let us...discover anew the humility and courage to pray and fast so that power from on high will break down the walls of lies and deceit: the walls which conceal from the sight of so many of our brothers and sisters the evil of practices and laws which are hostile to life. May this same power turn their hearts to resolutions and goals inspired by the civilization of life and love." (The Gospel of Life, 100)*

#### ROSARIES AVAILABLE

Located on the bulletin boards at each of our three parishes, there are bead and chain rosaries along with a pamphlet on praying the rosary. These have been donated through St. John's Altar & Rosary and made by Terry McVicker for the use of all our parishioners. Please take one for yourself or a loved one that may benefit from the prayers of the rosary and Mary's intercessions. Thank you to Terry.

Also, if you have a rosary in need of repair or rosaries to donate, Terry will either fix them or use them for parts.

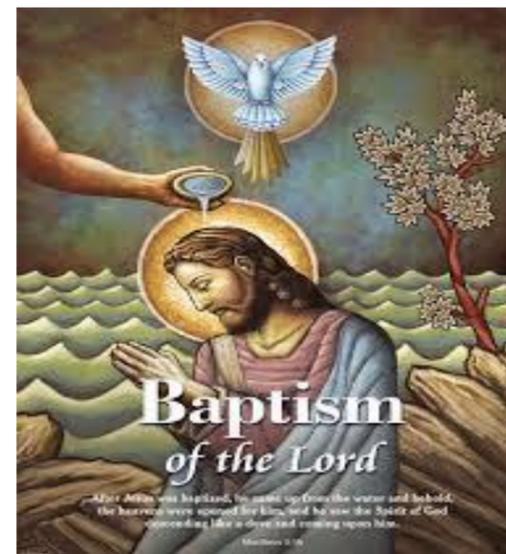
#### RCIA NEWS

We encourage anyone wishing to inquire of the RCIA process to contact the Church office at 348-3889. The beginning of the year is a great time to make resolutions to enhance our faith or share our faith with others who wish to study more of the Catholic faith.

#### COFFEE & DONUTS

All are invited each Sunday of religious education to coffee & donuts in the parish hall at St. John's. Visit with fellow parishioners and support the students in their education.

*If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual misconduct by clergy, contact Victim Assistance Coordinator, Jackie Montrie M.A., LMFT, LMHC, at 765-464-4988, contact Child Protective Services at 1-800-800-5556, or report the incident [www.dioceseoflafayetteinindiana.ethicspoint.com](http://www.dioceseoflafayetteinindiana.ethicspoint.com)*



### BAPTISM OF THE LORD January 9, 2022

#### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact the parish office about preparation. The sacrament is normally celebrated with the community during Mass. May God continue to bless you and your new little one.

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are available by appointment as well as:  
St. Mary, 5-5:30pm each Thursday; 4-4:30pm each Saturday  
St. John, 8-8:45am each Sunday prior to Mass  
Holy Family, 12noon-1pm each Sunday; 8:30-8:55am each Friday.

#### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage. Please contact the parish office to begin the preparation at least six months in advance.

#### SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Generally, Fr. Hurley is available after Mass for anointing, or you may contact the parish office to arrange a time.

#### RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Sessions for children and youth (grades K-12) are available on Sunday morning. Contact the parish office for details.

## St. Mary, Dunkirk St. John the Evangelist, Hartford City Holy Family, Gas City

A Pastorate of  
The Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Pastor, Fr. Kevin Hurley

#### PARISH OFFICES

Office e-mail: [dholsten@parish.dol-in.org](mailto:dholsten@parish.dol-in.org)

Fr. Hurley's email: [fr.khurley@dol-in.org](mailto:fr.khurley@dol-in.org)

Website: [www.stmaryjohn.org](http://www.stmaryjohn.org)

#### St. Mary, Dunkirk

P.O. Box 286, Dunkirk, IN 47336

Parish Office: 765-348-3889

Church Basement: 765-768-1283

#### St. John the Evangelist, Hartford City

213 S. Spring St., Hartford City, IN 47348

Parish Office: 765-348-3889

Fax: 765-348-4399

#### Holy Family, Gas City

325 E North A St, Gas City, IN 46933

Parish Office: 765-674-2605

#### PARISH REGISTRATION

Visitors are always welcome. Residents are invited to join the community by calling the parish office.

#### RCIA

People interested in knowing about the Catholic faith and way of life meet each week. Contact the parish office for information